CALON NR -72R24

The

Red Lake Gold Field





While Red Lake has now settled down to a normal routine of business and social life, it still bears the imprint of bot many of Ontario's mining communities. The town's dependence upon three forms of transportation — highway, waterw in this picture of the main street. Docks for aircraft and boats project into the lede at the right, Visible in this section ern store of the Hudson's Bay Company, the United Church of Canada, the Red Lake Hotel, the provincial governmen a modern structure since the picture was taken) and, set back on a hill, the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Legio sewerage system for the town began operating in 1969.





wn construction typical of al airway — is indicated e main street are the modfice building (replaced by complete new water and

THE RED LAKE GOLD FIELD

by L. CARSON BROWN

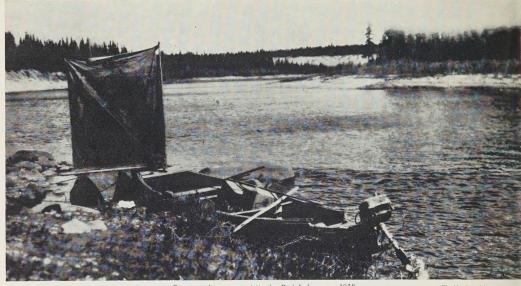
Long, Long ago, according to the legend, many years before the white man came to shatter the silence of the wilderness with his thunder stick, a band of Indian huntsmen came upon a great animal foraging along the shore of a lake far to the north and west of the sweet-water sea that is now called Lake Superior. The Red Men, believing that the creature was "Matchee Manitou" — the evil spirit — slew it and its blood flowed into the lake, dyeing the water red. And to this day the body of water is called Red Lake.

But countless ages before the birth and death of Matchee Manitou, the area surrounding Red Lake was a sea of molten lava which eventually cooled and solidified to form thousands of feet of volcanic rock. Then (and this was perhaps 2,500 million years ago) as Earth's liquid core gradually cooled, the crust was distorted and cracked. Mineralized substances were forced through these fissures toward the surface. The predominant economic mineral content was gold - and on that gold is based the present story of Red Lake and its importance to Canada's economy. Still later came a period of glaciation when a great ice cap scraped and gouged its way across the land. Great bodies of water flooded the low-lying areas and before they receded many millenia later they had left sedimentary deposits of clay and sand which in some places covered the volcanic rock to a considerable depth.

The Red Lake of today is not one town but a group of municipalities built around the mines of the area. The total population of the group of communities — Red Lake, Balmertown and Cochenour, McKenzie Island and Madsen — is not large, possibly 5,100 over-all, but it is in keeping with the whole of Northwestern Ontario, half the total area of the province, inhabited by less than four per cent of the total population, and responsible for the production of resources entirely out of proportion to so small a group of people.

Red Lake is still so young that a few of the men and women who braved the long winter trail or the portages along the water route from Hudson to establish the community are still there as prominent and active residents.

But the first recorded history of the Red Lake area goes back to 1777 when one John Lang (or Long) operated as a fur trader in the area immediately to the east of the lake. But a short distance away relics have been found that could indicate that Lief Erickson and his Norsemen visited the area long before the birth of Columbus. Some time before 1786, the North West Company established a trading post near the north entrance to the lake. This was Red Lake House. In 1790 the Hudson's Bay Company set up a competing establishment and nine years later the X.Y. Company also joined in battling for the Indian's business. In 1804 this latest arrival



Prospector's water taxi in the Red Lake area, 1928.

The Northern Miner

merged its fortunes with those of the North West Company which, in turn, was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821.

The first suggestion of possible mineral riches was made in 1872 by A. R. C. Selwyn of the Canadian Geological Survey who, while on an exploratory trip down the English River, 50 miles to the south, heard from a group of Indians of slatey rock formations at Onimini Sagaigan or Red Paint Lake. Selwyn did not find an opportunity to visit the area but in 1883 Robert Bell, also of the Geological Survey, made a track survey of the lake. Although Bell did not do any actual geological work on this trip he did report that what he termed "some interesting minerals" were found in a wide belt.

Ten years later D. B. Dowling was commissioned by the Survey to make the first genuine geological examination of the area. The map which he compiled was the only source of geological information about Red Lake available to the public until 1924 when E. L. Bruce published his report following two years of field work on behalf of the Ontario Department of Mines. Bruce had been sent into the area primarily to examine some unusual sediments, particularly limestones, that had been reported by Dowling and also to learn about the work that was being done by prospecting parties that were reported to have staked a number of claims. The burden of Bruce's report was that, although none of the mineral finds that had been recorded appeared to be of economic importance, the region did offer highly interesting possibilities.

These possibilities took on a more tangible aspect a year later with the discovery of gold veins that were to result in the establishment of the Howev and Hasaga mines, Obviously

further and more detailed study was necessary and this work was started in 1926 by J. E. Hawley and Bruce. The map and other geological information that resulted from this survey was the standard reference for prospectors for several years. Dr. M. E. Hurst, who retired in 1966 as Director of the Geological Branch of the Ontario Department of Mines, reported on the mineral occurrences in the area following an investigation in 1933 and 1934. In 1941 H. C. Horwood of the Ontario Mines Department completed work on the most comprehensive report on the area that has yet been published. Other major studies of parts of the Red Lake area have been made on behalf of the Ontario Department of Mines by E. O. Chisholm, Stewart A. Ferguson, Robert Thomson and R. A. Riley.

Apart from government-sponsored geological expeditions, the first record of the actual search for and discovery of minerals of economic importance goes back to 1897 when an English syndicate, the Northwestern Ontario Exploration Company. headed by R. J. Gilbert, staked a group of claims at Slate Bay at the northeast end of Red Lake. A small shaft was sunk but the results were not satisfactory and the project was abandoned

It was not until 1922 however that Red Lake itself saw much activity, and that was based on a largely unsubstantiated story of silver occurrences in the area. Among the first arrivals was a trio of experienced prospectors from Manitoba who arrived by way of Bloodvein River and Lake Winnipeg. They staked six claims on promising silver-bearing galena beside East Bay and then returned to Winnipeg to arrange additional financing. They were back in Red Lake with reinforcements within a few days and forthwith they staked another twenty-six claims.

Although the reports and rumours of the Red Lake discovery of 1922 were for the most part exaggerated, they did result in a minor rush in which about fifty prospectors staked 100 or more claims.

Herbert Tyrrell, while working with Fred Carroll, Ole Gustafson and Ole Sand at the north end of McKenzie Island, came across a showing of native gold. The quartet of prospectors staked six claims which later were to be developed into McKenzie Red Lake Gold Mines.

Carroll and Tyrrell then moved over to the mainland where Carroll staked nine claims on what later became the Cochenour Willans mine. Tyrrell took the nine claims immediately to the north. These claims were later to become part of the McMarmac and Richmac properties.

The difficulties of financing these prospects proved to be so great that, finally, all these pioneer prospectors with one exception gave up their efforts to raise development funds and allowed their claims to lapse.

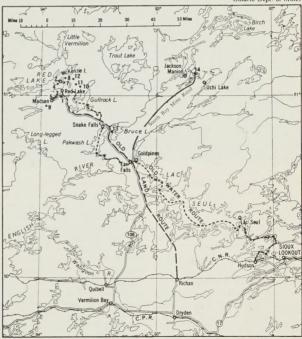
The exception was Findley Mc-Callum, one of the original Winnipeg syndicate and it was he who, on a fund-raising trip to Toronto, interested Lorne Howey in Red Lake possibilities. Howey, armed with a copy of Bruce's report, was able to persuade a group of Haileybury businessmen to put up the money to finance him and his brother-in-law, George McNeeley, for a prospecting trip to Red Lake. They were joined on this expedition by Lorne Howey's brother Ray and his partner, W. F. Morgan, who were prospecting on behalf of McIntyre Porcupine Mines of Timmins.

Results of their first weeks of work

were disappointing - so discouraging indeed that they had decided to give up the search - when McNeelev found a quartz stringer which, when panned, showed a small tail of gold. As he and Lorne Howey followed the stringer in opposite directions, they found that it widened out to 20 feet with visible gold in several spots.

At almost the same instant that Lorne Howey and McNeely made their discovery, Ray, who had been working a short distance away came upon a large outcrop of mineralized greenstone. Thus the Howey brothers, working in close unison but for different principals, almost simultaneously made the discoveries that were to result in the establishment of

Ontario Dept. of Mines



- Howev
- Hasaga McKenzie Red Lake
- Red Lake Gold Shore
- 4. Gold Eagle
- Madsen Red Lake
- Cochenour Willans
- Annco
- McMarmac
- 9 Starratt-Olsen
- 10. Dickenson
- 11. Campbell Red Lake
- 12. H. G. Young 13. Griffith Mine
- 14. South Bay Mine

the Howey and the Hasaga mines. When it was realized that the two discoveries were actually on the same vein zone, a line was cut between the two discovery points and a tree was blazed on four sides exactly midway between them. All the property to the north belonged to Lorne, and that on the south to Ray. This day, July 25th, 1925, could really be considered the birth date of the Red Lake camp.

Lorne, given a free hand by his backers in Haileybury, immediately contacted Jack E. Hammell, a Torontofinancier who was even then establishing an outstanding reputation as one of Canada's most successful



This was Red Lake.
Ontario Dept. of Mines



William Cochenour and his wife Edna in 1928 as they staked the claim on the ground that was to become the Cochenour Willans Mine.

J. E. J. Fahlgren

Sandy McIntyre, the discoverer of the McIntyre Porcupine Mine in the Porcupine and an early visitor to Red Lake.

G. Shearn

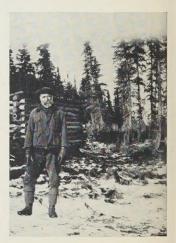
mining promoters Hammell was convinced that Red Lake was the place on which to base his hopes for a fortune. He staked additional ground to the north and west — the ground on which the town of Red Lake now stands.

At the same time, lured either by rumour or actual information, a number of gold seekers moved in from the east. There were Bill and Ed Cochenour, Dan Willans, Bobby Cockeram, Russ Ferguson, William Smith, and C. J. H. Cunningham-Dunlop. Most of the newcomers were content to follow the example of Ray Howey and concentrate on the southwest part of the

area. One team however, Jack St. Paul and his partner, restaked the former McManus ground at Chukuni River which had originally been taken up during the abortive search for silver in 1922.

The Cochenour brothers, Dan Willans, W. C. Mogeridge and H. G. Young staked some ground near the Howey discovery to become known as the Buffalo Red Lake Syndicate, and other property that was to become the Cochenour Willans Gold Mine. The Cockeram Syndicate claims were set up on the ground adjoining the Buffalo Red Lake.

Hammell returned to Toronto with the news of Red Lake, and his success





This was Red Lake's post office in 1926.

Photographs by G. Shearn

light hours. Today, with four charter airlines based there and daily service by Trans-Air from Winnipeg, it is still an important centre for air traffic with the broad waters of the lake providing landing and takeoff facilities for float or ski planes and a Department of Transport airport for wheeled craft.

Apart from commercial aviation, the busiest air activity in the Red Lake area is carried on by the Mennonite church which is extremely active in its

in optioning the Howev and Cochenour claims to so well-established a company as Dome Mines Limited soon had Bay Street rocking, News headlines around the world did the rest and January, 1926, saw the beginning of a gold rush that within the next few weeks lured well over a thousand prospectors into that remote and rugged land. It was, perhaps, the biggest rush since the Klondike in 1898. But this was a gold rush with a difference. Not only was it the last of the old-fashioned stampedes in which dog teams and men vied for space along the narrow trail. but it also ushered in the air age of prospecting.

As soon as the decision was taken to develop the Howey mine, Hammell chartered four flying boats from the Provincial Air Service, operated by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, to fly in men, supplies and material before the autumn freeze-up halted operations. The pilots of these aircraft, all pioneer members of Canada's fraternity of "fly-by-the-seat-of-yourpants" bush pilots, bore names that have since become famous in aviation lore. They were: Rod Ross, Carter Guest, Romeo Vachon and H. A. "Doc" Oaks, Mr. Oaks died in Toronto in July, 1968.



A group of satisfied customers at Red Lake's first restaurant, "Faulkenham's Eatery", in 1926.

Early in March 1926 a regular commercial air service of sorts was ushered in with the flight from Hudson of two first war "Jennies", the JNU scout plane with the open cockpit. Ten years later during the third period of intense activity, (this one brought on largely by the increase in the price of gold from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per ounce and the consequent stock market boom) Red Lake for a time was actually one of the busiest airports in the world with planes landing and taking off from the lake in an almost steady stream during the day-

missions to the Indians of Northwestern Ontario. The church has planes in the air almost constantly.

When it became evident that a major prospecting rush was developing, the Ontario Department of Mines in February 1926 sent in H. E. (Bert) Holland, the mining recorder in Kenora, who set up an office in a tent to deal with the prospectors. Holland was accompanied by T. A. McArthur, the inspector of recording offices in Ontario. Between March 21st and April 21st more than 3,500 claims were recorded by Holland. By the end



The McIntyre Mines camp at Red Lake some time after the original discovery. This property later became the Hasaga Gold Mine which produced steadily from 1938 to 1952.

the town of Red Lake. His stockin-trade totalled forty tons and he agreed to pay a straight \$250 per ton

G. Shearn

for transportation. With thirty-two extra horses brought in for the job, the long haul over the ice began and was completed without incident except that two teams became lost on Lac Seul and wandered around for four days before finding the trail. Faulkenham was killed the next year by an explosion of dynamite. This highly organized exercise in

logistics got the new Red Lake camp off to a good start in a career that was to see it as one of the most active gold fields in Canada, While the heavy freight was being hauled in by the land and water route, the rush reached its peak intensity and the air service was flying in passengers and baggage at a rate of \$1.00 per pound. The rate charged by Red Lake Transport on the surface route was 20 cents per pound. Meanwhile the flood of prospectors continued and with the spring breakup the newcomers took to canoes, boats, barges and almost anything else that would float. Red Lake Transport bought and equipped

of the year the total on record exceeded 10,000 claims.

Although it is now a routine twohour drive to Red Lake 110 miles north from Highway 17, it was not always that simple. Early in the winter of 1925-26, Hammell optioned the Howey and McIntyre properties to Dome Mines and this company prepared to take in three diamonddrills to test the ground. A combination of unfortunate weather, deep snow and an early thaw that covered the trail with heavy slush, made the haulage job almost impossible and by March, with the spring breakup imminent, the three diamond-drills, boilers, pipes, rods and assorted gear were strung out along the ice of Lac Seul for a distance of 30 miles.

Faced with this situation, Douglas Wright, the manager of the Howey property called on an old friend of his, George Wardrope who was later to become Ontario's Minister of Mines, but who was then a timber contractor at McDougall's Mills, near Sioux Lookout. Wardrope discussed the problems with Kenneth and Archie McDougall with the net result that a company was formed to get the freight through. The contract was on the basis of \$200 per ton of freight with a costplus proviso in case costs should exceed that amount or if, as then seemed highly probable, it was found impossible to get through at

Then another complication in the form of an additional contract was added. Nehemiah Faulkenham returned to Hudson after staking forty claims on the ground that was to become the Madsen Red Lake mine. Apart from doing the assessment work required to prove up these claims he planned to open a general store, the first in what was to become

Lights of the Howey mine bri



John Humlin and Charlie Keetch who arrived at Red Lake in 1927. Mr. Humlin died early in 1970.

a fleet of motor launches and had virtually a monopoly on this business for the next four years.

During the summer of 1926 Red Lake was a hotbed of activity and most of the district was solidly staked. Major Cunningham-Dunlop



George C. Wardrope, Ontario's Minister of Mines from 1961 to 1968, as he appeared in 1928 when he was engaged in hauling supplies into the infant Red Lake mining camp.

J. E. J. Fahlgren

alone held ground which later came to patent and became the MacFie, Detta Dickenson, Brewis and Abino properties. These properties were



owned in succession by three different companies which, after working them for a year or more, decided to wind up operations. There were, probably, several reasons for this lack of success but the prime factor was almost certainly the remoteness of the area and the consequent high cost of development work and production.

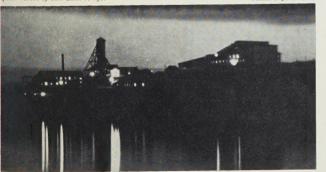
Then in September the bubble burst for most of the hopeful gold seekers when Dome Mines dropped its option on the Howey property. The feeling was that if so well-estable a company could not make a success of a proven gold deposit there wasn't much chance for individuals

or organizations with smaller treasuries. The sorry exodus began and the march back to the railhead became a rout of disillusioned prospectors. A few die-hards stayed on amid a pall of gloom, either to spend the winter trapping or to do a little more work on their own claims. The Hudson's Bay Company's trading post was moved from Post Narrows to Johnson's Point, north of Howey's Bay, and on that not very happy Christmas Day practically all the little band of exiles from all parts of the area congregated there.

Rumours of a revival would not die, however, and in February of 1927, rumour became fact, Jack Hammell had never lost his faith in the Howey, and at that time shaft sinking equipment was brought in under the management of Horace G. Young, an experienced and highly competent mining engineer who, more than three decades later, was to see another mine bearing his own name established in the area. The Howey mine began production April 2nd, 1930 and continued as a highly profitable venture until 1941 when the collapse of a shaft pillar brought about its closure. The resumption of activity at the Howey was the spark needed to revive the whole camp and the summer of 1927 saw the return of many prospectors. New discoveries

quiet waters of Red Lake to life.





were made at the McKenzie, Cochenour, Martin McNeeley, Lake Rowan and other sites. Considerable interest and financing were directed toward the Woman Lake area, a few miles to the east of Red Lake, and preparations were made to sink shafts on the Jackson Manion, Bathurst, Dunkin and Bobjo prospects.

The McKenzie Red Lake property which had first been staked in 1922 was brought into production in 1935 and produced steadily until 1966, by which time its ore reserves were exhausted. Red Lake Gold Shore, staked in 1925 and 1926 by G. W. Campbell, Colin Campbell and C. E. St. Paul, produced from 1936 to 1938. The Gold Eagle mine went into production in 1937 after a chequered career but was closed down in 1941.

Madsen Red Lake Gold Mines was incorporated in 1935. Underground development work was being carried out at five levels from a shaft sunk at the south end of the property when the discovery of new and richer ore a short distance away induced the company to transfer its whole operation to the new ground. Production has been continuous

since the mill began turning over in 1938. Since 1968 a new ore zone north of the shaft has been under active development.

Hasaga Gold Mines produced from 1938 to 1952 under the control of J. E. Hammell who bought the group of claims which Ray Howey had originally staked in 1925.

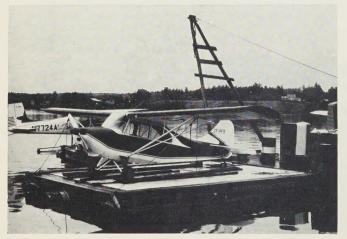
The Cochenour Willans mine was

a steady producer from November 1939 until its closure in 1971. The mine was established on claims which were staked in the rush of 1926-27 by W. M. Cochenour, E. C. Cochenour, Dan Willans and H. G. Young, but in the interval between staking and production, work was done periodically by various interests.



The hospital at Cochenour.

Photographs on these pages by W.
Treadwell, Ontario Dent, of Mines



McMarmac Red Lake Gold Mines Limited was incorporated by officers of McKenzie Red Lake to develop a showing on the grounds of Richmac and Margaret Red Lake mines. The mill began turning over in October 1940 and production continued for eight years. The Starratt-Olsen mine went into production in 1948 on ground adjoining the Madsen mine. The claims had originally been staked in 1926 and were restaked in 1934 by David Olsen, R. W. Starrett and W. Cooke. Hasaga Mines assumed con-

One of the fleet of planes operated by the Mennonite Church at Red Lake in its mission to the Indians of Northwestern Ontario.

Private enterprise, as represented by this general store on McKenzie Island, still flourishes in the Red Lake area although this particular store has been closed.

trol in 1939. This company retained a 50 per cent interest and directed operations when the company was incorporated as Starrett-Olsen. The mine ceased operating in 1956.

C. J. H. Cunningham-Dunlop, one of the early arrivals in the Red Lake camp, staked the ground on which the Dickenson mine now stands but after doing considerable preliminary work he allowed it to revert to the Crown, Gordon Shearn, who is still a resident of Red Lake, restaked it in 1944 and disposed of his rights to Irving J. Isbell in a cash and stock transaction, Later J. G. Dickenson, a mining engineer, bought a half interest in the property, and in 1944 the present company was incorporated. The first gold was produced in 1948 and the output has continued steadily ever since.

The ground on which the Campbell Red Lake mine now stands was staked by a team of pioneer prospectors, G. W. Campbell, C. A. Campbell and A. K. McLeod. After incorporation in 1944, the property was optioned to Brewis and White and later re-optioned to Dome Exploration Limited, the exploration arm of Dome Mines which still controls the company. The mine has produced steadily since it began production in May 1949.

The H. G. Young mine was established on a group of nineteen claims adjacent to the Campbell ground and mining was carried out from a shaft which was actually sunk on Campbell property, a co-operative measure that benefitted both sides. The H. G. Young mine produced steadily, if not spectacularly, from 1960 until it

The "school bus" for high school students living on McKenzie Island is a motor launch which carries them to and from their classes at Cochenour, on the mainland. The Cochenour Willans mine is seen in the background.



closed down in February 1963.
Annco Mines Limited was organized in 1963 by Cochenour Willans

to develop five claims adjoining Cochenour to the south. First production from the Annco was obtained in 1965 and until its closure in 1971 the ore was processed in the Cochenour Willans mill. Wilmar Mines Limited was another Cochenour operation. First production was obtained in 1968 and the ore which was hoisted at the rate of 125-150 tons per day was treated in the Cochenour mill. This property also suspended operations in 1971.



Robin Red Lake Mines, incorporated in 1945, is largely controlled by Dickenson Mines and, as was the case with the new Cochenour properties, exploration work was carried on from a crosscut driven in from the existing mine. The new Robin Red Lake mine began producing in 1968. It is mined through the Dickenson shaft and the ore is treated in the Dickenson mill. Additional ground, known as the McEwen and John Durham property, consisting of sixteen claims, was also optioned by Dickenson with a view to carrying out an extensive exploration program. This property has since been returned to Mr. Durham.

Thus, in its relatively very short life, the Red Lake mining camp has had production from 17 properties of which four are still in operation. In the years since the Howey mill began turning over in 1930, the mines of the camp have produced a total of about \$360 million in gold.

The cost penalties which the remoteness of the area imposed in the early days have now been largely overcome and efficient management and operating procedure, coupled with the grade of ore which generally is higher than that of most other Canadian gold mines, have made these profitable operations.

The rate of attrition has not been particularly high and four mines still flourishing after three decades is a better than average record.

Early in 1966 a whole new dimension was added to the economy of the Red Lake district with the

Ontario Dept. of Travel and Publicity



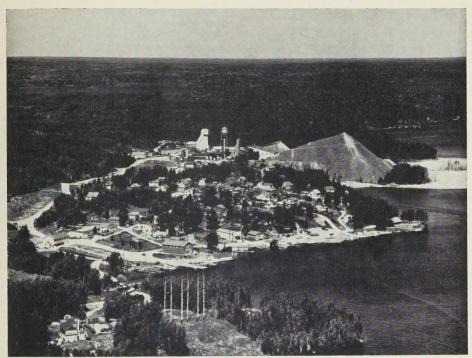
September 27, 1962, a plaque commemorating the founding of Red Lake was unveiled by Bryan L. Cathcart, then Ontario's Minister of Travel and Publicity. Among those attending the ceremony were, Reeve H. H. Hughes of Red Lake Township, J. E. J. Fahlgren, vice-president and general manager of Cochenour Willans Gold Mine; Mr. Cathcart; Conrad Sveinsson, president of the Partica Regional Townist Council; E. E. Bates, president of the Red Lake District Chamber of Commerce; John Chapple, at that time a member of the Legislature; and W. C. Noden, the member for Rainy River.

Colin Campbell on the Rugged Red Lake mine site. One of the most active prospectors in Red Lake's first days, Mr. Campbell died in 1961.

A. Kuvia

completion of an agreement by the Steel Company of Canada to take over and develop the enormous iron ore deposit to be known as the Griffith Mine at Bruce Lake about 30 miles to the south. A spur line was cut into the property from the CNR and only a short road link was required to connect with Highway 105. Actual production started in 1968 after the expenditure of more than 60 million dollars. Production is at the rate of 1,500,000 tons of iron pellets annually. About 450 men are employed at the mine. The community of Ear Falls which serves as a dormitory for a great many of the employees has taken on a new look with the construction of about 100 new houses.

The first viable deposit of base metals in the Red Lake district was discovered in 1968 as the result of geophysical exploration carried out in the Uchi Lake area 50 miles east of Red Lake. In that year Selco Exploration Limited, a Canadian subsidiary of Selection Trust Limited, a very big British mining group, had an airborne survey conducted over an area of about 150 square miles surrounding the old Uchi Gold Mine property. During the summer, field crews on the ground



McKenzie Red Lake Mine dominates McKenzie Island in Red Lake. Nestled in its shadow are the comfortable homes of the workers. The mine closed in 1966.

George Hunter

Kenneth H. McDougall, one of Red Lake's very early residents, held a miner's license from 1933 until his death early in 1972. After the 25th year, the license had been renewed annually by the Department on a complimentary basis.



RED LAKE GOLD MINES

	Started Production	Ceased Operation	Total Value of Production
Howey	1930	1957	\$ 13,256,097
McKenzie Red Lake	1935	1966	23,724,240
Red Lake Gold Shore	1936	1938	747,577
Gold Eagle	1937	1942	1,496,844
*Madsen Red Lake	1938		81,714,488
Hasaga	1938	1952	8,246,398
Cochenour-Willans		1971	40,812,114
McMarmac	1940	1948	1,762,760
Starratt-Olsen	1948	1956	5,874,128
*Dickenson	1948		59,402,172
*Campbell Red Lake	1949		117,035,905
H. G. Young		1963	960,355
Annco	1965	1971	2,046,757
Wilmar	1967	1971	2,033,044
**Robin Red Lake			475,872
			\$359,588,751

^{*}Represents production to Dec. 31, 1971.

^{**}Production to Dec. 31, 1970 - 1971 production included in Dickenson total.



The headframe of the South Bay mine rises at Confederation Lake. The sheave wheel over which the hoisting cable will pass is being hoisted into position at the peak of the headframe. The 500 ton-per-day operation scheduled production for April 1, 1971.



examined indicated anomolies. In September, diamond-drilling intersected two narrow bands of massive sulphide mineralization rich in copper, zinc and silver.

With these encouraging results the company continued a quiet program of drilling and at the same time staked hundreds of claims to acquire ground for several miles along the strike of the formations.

The results of the drilling, released in January 1969, sparked a major staking rush in which some 8,000 claims were staked on all the favourable ground between Bruce Lake and Birch Lake, a distance of about 70 miles.

Meanwhile drilling was continuing at the discovery site and by late summer it was possible to define the zone as a small but extremely rich orebody grading approximately 2.5 per cent copper, 16 per cent zinc and 3.5 ounces of silver to the ton

Selco formed a new company, South Bay Mines Limited, to acquire additional claims around the orebody in order to develop a mine and plant to handle 500 tons of ore daily. Construction of a 51-mile allweather road from Ear Falls to the mine site was started immediately with the Ontario Government providing co-operation and financial assistance through its Northern Ontario Resources Transportation program. It was possible to deliver the necessary construction equipment over the road as early as February, 1970 and the road-building job was completed by mid-year.

That spring the construction camp was built, the plant site was cleared and shaft-sinking equipment was installed with ore production by April 1, 1971 as the objective.

An aerial view of the Griffith mine taken shortly before the processing and service buildings were completed. First ore was shipped from this 62 million dollar mining and pelletizing complex in March, 1968.

The South Bay mine proved to be the forerunner of a number of other discoveries and developments which together could mean revolutionary advances in the economy of Northwestern Ontario. The biggest single development is the Mattabi Mine at Sturgeon Lake which is scheduled to begin production late in 1972. Two other producing mines in the same area seem to be assured. Intensive exploration was

also carried out in the Pickle Lake area.

While Red Lake is first and foremost a mining community, the prosperity conferred upon it by the mines is supplemented by other industries, notably two well-established lumber companies which provide mine timbers and building materials for industrial and private use. Red Lake is a mecca for sportsmen who are served by about sixty camps spotted along the road from Highway 17 or in more remote areas which can be reached only by air. The whole area abounds with game and few are the hunters who come out of the bush without their quota of deer or moose. A commercial fishery which carried on operations for several years in Red Lake did not seriously reduce the stock of fish in this or the other, smaller, lakes which abound in the district.

Dredging in preparation for mining part of the Griffith mine orebody lying beneath the waters of Bruce Lake.

Photo, Canadian Industries Limited



Geological Map of Ontario



Published by Authority of

THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hon. Leo Bernier

Minister

WALTER Q. MACNEE

Deputy Minister

Reprinted from CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL April 1965